

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 18733 240649Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----028593 240650Z /12
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5414

S E C R E T BANGKOK 18733

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS-2
TAGS: MOPS, TH, PINR, LA VN
SUBJ: THAI SUPPORTED LAO RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES

REF: A.) STATE 191888
B.) BANGKOK 18446

1. CHARGE CALLED ON DEFENSE MINISTER ADMIRAL SANGAT
CHALOYU AUGUST 23 AS INSTRUCTED REF A.

2. CHARGE INDICATED THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY DEPARTMENT
TO INFORMALLY DISCUSS WITH DMIRAL SANGAT OUR SERIOUS CONCERN
ABOUT THAI SUPPORTED SABOTAGE OPERATIONS IN LAOS. CHARGE
EXPLAINED THAT THIS APPROACH HAD BEEN CAUSED BY INVOLVEMENT BY
ADMIRAL DAMRONG AND MROU IN DESTRUCTION OF PETROLEUM STORAGE
FACILITIES IN SAVNNAKHET, LAOS. WE HAD ALSO BEEN CONCERNED
ABOUT INDICATIONS THAT THAI UNITS MIGHT BE RESUMING PLANS TO
DESTROY THE SEBANGFAI RIVER BRIDGE BUT UNDERSTOOD THAT NOW
NOT UNDER CONSIDERATION.

3. CHARGE SAID THAT IN MAKING THIS INFORMAL PRESENTATION HE
WANTED TO POINT OUT THAT THESE ACTIVITIES ARE NOT IN INTEREST
OF EITHER THAILAND OR THE U.S. FURTHER, THEIR CONTINUATION
COULD SERIOUSLY COMPLICATE OUR OWN BI-LATERAL RELATIONSHIP. WE
FOR OUR PART ARE OPPOSED TO THESE OPERATIONS AGAINST THAILAND'S
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NEIGHBORS AND ARE NOT PREPARED IN ANY WAY TO ASSOCIATE OURSELVES
WITH THEM. CONSEQUENTLY CHARGE HAD BEEN ASKED TO INFORMALLY
CONVEY OUR VIEWS TO ADMIRAL SANGAT SO THAT THEY WOULD BE
UNDERSTOOD BY THE MINISTER AND APPROPRIATE HIGH LEVELS OF RTG.

4. FOR HIS PART, SANGAT ASKED WHETHER OUR INFORMATION WITH
REGARD TO THAI INVOLVEMENT WAS "100 0/0" ACCURATE. CHARGE

SAID INFORMATION WAS DIRECT AND AUTHORITATIVE.

5. SANGAT SAID THAT HE COULD ASSURE US THAT AS A MATTER OF CONSIDERED GOVERNMENTAL DECISION THE RTG POLICY IS NOT TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL LAO SITUATION. THAT IS THE CLEAR GOVERNMENT DECISION AND POLICY. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD FULLY THE SERIOUSNESS OF POINTS CHARGE MADE AND HE WOULD INVESTIGATE TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED AND TO BE SURE THAT THAI UNITS OPERATE UNDER THE GOVERNMENT POLICY.

6. COMMENT: TONE OF MEETING WAS FRIENDLY BUT SERIOUS THROUGHOUT. SANGAT MADE CLEAR THAT HE UNDERSTOOD FULLY THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR APPROACH.

7. BELIEVE THAT AT THIS POINT WE HAVE SUFFICIENTLY IMPRESSED ALL LEVELS OF THAI MILITARY HEIRARCHY OUR CONCERNS. FOR NEAR TERM AT LEAST WE EXPECT A TIGHTENING UP OF CONTROLS OVER THAI UNITS AND AN INCREASED SENSITIVITY ON THE PART OF THE THAI MILITARY LEADERSHIP TO THE DANGERS OF SUCH OPERATIONS.
O'DONOHUE

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